

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE MEETING Nov. 19,
2019

Time: 1:30pm

Place: Town Hall

Committee members present: Corinna Barnard, Mary Brazie, Jared Kelly (Chair), Jim Noe, Police Chief Jason LaForest.

Also present were Alexis Fakelman, Robbie Fakelman, Stephen Piersanti

Minutes of the Sept. 12 meeting were accepted and approved.

Feedback and updates regarding the use of temporary speed humps/tables. Jim Noe said he did not find any data to suggest they increased the danger of accidents. Jason LaForest said he did not find any such data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration either. Mary Brazie noted that the speed tables in Westfield speed tables are hard to see as they are painted red, rather than with reflective paint. Jim Noe said that a representative from Traffic Logic had made a site visit and recommended one speed table near No. 9 Sheffield Road (opposite entrance to Pinecrest Hill Road) and another further south, before the 40 mph sign. They would be of the type that is removed in winter. They would be custom-made to the location, with 400-to-700 feet recommended between the two tables and not placed within 120 feet from intersection or bridge or crosswalk. The total cost, including four signs at \$150 each and the possibility of contracted labor would be about \$12,000 for two, including labor.

Jared Kelly also suggested a stop sign be placed on Sheffield Road, heading north, just before the intersection with Button Ball Lane. Jim Noe said the state would need to authorize that. Jim had checked on the speed postings and said that the affected stretch of Sheffield Road is correctly posted for 25 mph. He had also checked Creamery Road and that is also correctly posted.

General discussion, including affected citizens in attendance:

--Lighting and grooved pavement: Robbie Fakelman raised the possibility of lighting, which makes drivers realize, when they are emerging from a darker area, that they are entering another zone. He said that street lights, in combination with grooved pavement, could be an effective alternative. The lighting would be down-facing and would comply with Dark Skies specifications of a kelvin range of 2100- 2700; lighting in Lenox provides an example. National Grid currently puts up lights in high traffic areas but such lights are not in compliance with Dark Skies or otherwise in keeping with what citizens envisioned.

--Year-round speed tables/white lines at sides of road: Stephen Piersanti expressed an interest, if doing anything at all, doing something that was built into the asphalt and not removed in winter. He also noted that it might help to paint white stripes at the sides of the tarmac, to heighten drivers' awareness of the slow-speed zone. Stephen summarized the menu of possibilities under consideration: stop signs, rumble strips (of the grooved pavement type), speed tables, lighting, white painted lines on sides of road.

Alexis Fakelman suggested that there were a number of possibilities to consider and that the group should begin thinking of the various possibilities and designing for a budget.

Next steps:

Jim Noe agreed to cost out No 1) different types of permanent speed tables and No. 2) check out the possibility of putting up a stop sign on the north bound side of Sheffield Road just before the intersection with Buttonball Lane.

Mary Brazie offered to follow up on lighting, including the possibility of grants for historic-district lighting.

Jim said that to justify painting boundary lines on that stretch of road he would first need average daily speed counts for two major seasons. Mary said the Town had the equipment to provide that data.

Jim Noe offered to work with citizens in mapping locations for any equipment.

Jared Kelly said that after deciding its objectives, the group should work backward from the funding application deadline to complete an application (whether that

involved lighting, speed tables, lines.) Funding requests could be made in parallel with the Town's annual budgeting process.

Police Chief Jason LaForest said he will look for accident reports in the affected area, which would help obtain grant funding.

Next meeting: Jan. 7/Tuesday at 1:30.

Upcoming agenda items:

--Continue to discuss pedestrian/bicyclist safety and traffic calming for Sheffield Road and generate a list of priorities for Complete Streets funding.

--Discuss any other geographic areas of concern: Cross walks for people moving from Creamery to the Library and crossing Rte. 23 to the Barn; Boice Road/Rte. 23 intersection and Prospect Lake Road, which has no lane line.

--Traffic pressures on Boice Road could be temporarily alleviated by the closure of Division Street bridge in Great Barrington.

Next meeting: Thursday Nov. 7 at 1:30.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40.

Submitted by Corinna Barnard.